

Willamette Mainstem Cooperative Meeting

November 2, 2017
9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Benton SWCD Office
456 SW Monroe Ave., Suite 110
Corvallis, OR 97333

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: **Debra Paul** (Linn SWCD), **Brad Withrow-Robinson** (OSU Extension, Forestry), **Emily Day** (City of Albany Parks and Rec. Dept.), **Holly Crosson** (Benton SWCD), **Jeff Baker** (Greenbelt Land Trust), **Joe Dearorff** (City of Albany Talking Water Gardens), **John Keogh** (local landowner and farmer), **Kathleen Guillozet** (BEF), **Kelly Warren** (Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs), **Megan Zarzycki** (Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians), **Melissa Newman** (Benton SWCD), **Peter Kenagy** (Oregon Farm Bureau, local farmer, and Willamette River landowner), Scott Youngblood (OPRD), and **Vern Holm** (CPRCD)

Melissa Newman provided a short overview of the WMC for new attendees.

Review of 2017 Projects - Round Table Sharing

Kathleen – update on homelessness and natural areas symposium, 100 people from around the basin attended, mostly Portland organizations, there will be follow ups and regional break outs including beyond natural resource managers. Working a lot to bring in other funding sources to groups working in the basin. One tree planted – in spirit donations of 85 cents per tree planted, unrestricted funding for partner groups. Just received funding to work with Benton SWCD and others on Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Effectiveness Monitoring for Anchor Habitat Working Group projects.

Joe – Talking water gardens, waste water treatment wetlands, Ludwigia treatments in the cells and just starting to do some bittersweet nightshade treatments, in coming years it will be continued removal and plug planting of natives

Megan – CTSI, Willamette Wildlife mitigation program, getting to know partners, working with Benton SWCD on wapato tubers on coast plantings

Kelly – Willamette Basin related, Willamette FIP as technical representative and Clackamas, Closed on two properties Clackamas River and North Santiam, work with Megan on WWMP responsibilities, also technical and policy assistance for partners

Jeff – two properties in reach, floodplain restoration and tree plantings, more in maintenance mode now that trees are established

Peter – working on his farm (including invasive plant control treatments)

Brad – busy upslope this year not in Willamette educational

John – have farm along Willamette, invasive management blackberry and teasel; amazed at how much seed bank is in the soil of the invasives

Scott – Working with Calapooia Watershed Council at Bower’s Rock on Ludwigia control treatments and may be doing more work out there, working on neighbor relations. Working on replacing culvert at Truax on Riverside Drive and may have that done this summer. Not able to do as much Greenway work (restroom cleaning). OPRD is doing planning process for greenway and two planning positions in other areas of river; they will get two new rangers and this will be a new focus for the agency; a lot of turn over in his superiors.

Emily – getting familiarized with aquatic invasive plants and attending workshops; Tadena Landing and Simpson have Ludwigia in first and second lakes and they have interest in treating Ludwigia there; she came from BLM in Eugene and she had been working with USACE and Eugene in wet and upland prairie in habitat restoration

Deb – working a lot in two Santiam areas and all over Lane County

Review of 2017 Projects – WMC 2017 Activities Presentation

Melissa Newman provided PowerPoint presentation overview of 2017 WMC Activities.

Summary table:

Summary of 2017 Partner Activities along Corvallis to Albany reach of Willamette River

April 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bryant Park stewardship day – mulching plants, monitoring, and ivy pull (Calapooia Watershed Council, South Albany students, WSTAR)
May 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tadena Landing - Ivy control using volunteer pulls (Benton County CWMA, City of Albany Parks and Recreation and Public Works, Benton SWCD)
May 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Periwinkle Creek- Ivy control at Bowman Park using volunteer pulls (Benton County CWMA, Calapooia Watershed Council, South Albany High School Youth Watershed Council, City of Albany)
June 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 Workshop for aquatic weed ID and management (OSWB, Benton SWCD, Willamette Riverkeeper, PSU, Calapooia Watershed Council, City of Albany Parks and Recreation)
June – Oct 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ludwigia and yellow floating heart surveys along Willamette River, Corvallis to Albany reach (OSWB, Benton SWCD, Willamette Riverkeeper, OPRD, and other Willamette Aquatic Invasive Network partners)
July 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Festival Latino – education/outreach for underserved audiences in our community (Benton SWCD, Calapooia Watershed Council, City of Albany)
July-Aug 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 Volunteer water primrose and yellow floating heart pulls along reach (OSWB, Benton SWCD, Willamette Riverkeeper, Calapooia Watershed Council, City of Albany Parks and Recreation)
July – Oct 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stewart Slough, Azbahr Lake, and Knife River gravel ponds - Third year of Ludwigia control treatments (OWEB-WSIP, Benton SWCD)
July – Sept 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collins Bay - Fourth year of Ludwigia control treatments (OSWB, Benton SWCD)

Summary of 2017 Partner Activities along Corvallis to Albany reach of Willamette River

July – Sept 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horseshoe Lake, Benton County - Fourth year of yellow floating heart control treatments; new technique used this year (OSWB, Benton SWCD)
July – Sept 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower Kiger side channel - Second year of Ludwigia (herbicide) control treatments (OWEB-WSIP, Benton SWCD)
July – Nov 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collins Bay and Scatter Bar Pond – Water quality monitoring pre and post Ludwigia treatments (OSWB, USGS, Benton SWCD, Greenbelt Land Trust, Linn SWCD)
July – Nov 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collins Bay and Scatter Bar Pond - Vegetation sampling pre and post Ludwigia treatments (OSWB, Portland State University, Benton SWCD, Greenbelt Land Trust, Linn SWCD)
Aug 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paddle Oregon - outreach and education about aquatic invasives and natives (Willamette Riverkeeper, Benton SWCD)
Summer 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bowers Rock State Park - First year of Ludwigia treatments; working on designs for priority stream crossing and pond reconnection (OSWB, OPRD, Calapooia Watershed Council, WSTAR)
Sept – Oct 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wapato Cove - First year of Ludwigia treatments (OSWB, Benton SWCD)
Oct 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marvin’s Marvelous Wetlands - Native plant materials collection (aquatic seeds and tubers) (MMT, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, City of Eugene, Benton SWCD)
Oct 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collins Bay - Planting of native aquatic plant materials (MMT, Benton SWCD)
Oct 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talking Water Gardens and Simpson Park – planning for fall turtle working group field day potentially at City sites (Upper Willamette Native Turtle Working Group members and City of Albany)
Oct 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great Willamette Clean Up - Hyak Landing to Bowman Park (on water), Hyak Park (on land), and Crystal Lake (on land) (Calapooia Watershed Council, City of Albany, City of Corvallis, Willamette Riverkeeper, WSTAR)
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Willamette – Rio Laja (Mexico) Youth Education Project – developing opportunity connecting local bilingual schools, local conservation organizations, and schools and conservation partners in Mexico on education project (Twinning project, Benton SWCD, Calapooia Watershed Council, Garfield Elementary School, Institute for Applied Ecology, Lincoln Elementary School, South Shore Elementary School, additional local partners, and partners in Mexico)
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WMC logo and illustration - Working with local artist on development of simple logo design options for WMC partner consideration (MMT, Benton SWCD)
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half Moon Bend –targeted weed control treatments to protect prior riparian plantings, addition of riparian plant materials in areas with poor plant survival; treatment of ivy, clematis, and other priority invasives in mature floodplain forest area (OPRD)
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simpson Park (First Lake) - riparian restoration project; also considering applying for ODA OSWB funds to begin Ludwigia control treatments (City of Albany)
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bowman Park - Knotweed control treatments (City of Albany)
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simpson Park and Talking Water Gardens - Science outreach and education field days with local students (Calapooia Watershed Council, City of Albany, WSTAR)
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periwinkle Creek at Bowman Park - Riparian plantings (Calapooia Watershed Council, City of Albany, WSTAR)

Summary of 2017 Partner Activities along Corvallis to Albany reach of Willamette River

2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Horseshoe Lake Restoration, Phase 2, Linn County – Planning for riparian and aquatic habitat restoration (OWEB FIP, Greenbelt Land Trust)
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Truax Island - Planning for main access culvert replacement (OWEB-FIP, Calapooia Watershed Council, OPRD)
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Calapooia Confluence - Planning for habitat restoration project – engineering design alternatives (OWEB-FIP, Calapooia Watershed Council, WSTAR)
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Talking Water Gardens – Continued Ludwigia treatments? (City of Albany)
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Willamette Anchor Habitat Working Group (WAHWG) Monitoring Framework – monitoring framework currently being developed to assess implementation and effectiveness of restoration projects funded through the WAHWG Focused Investment Partnerships; includes sites along Corvallis to Albany reach (OWEB-FIP, WAHWG partners)
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• WAHWG FIP Progress Monitoring - developing practical, consistent, and adaptable approach for measuring and communicating ecological and social outcomes for the WAHWG FIPs (OWEB-FIP, BEF & WAHWG partners)
Oct 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pilot Event: Serving Unhoused People and Sustaining Our Natural Areas (BEF, Willamette Riverkeeper, Portland Partners) – Willamette natural resource professionals invited to gathering cultivating compassion, innovation, and collaboration in addressing critical resource stewardship and social justice needs

A few Highlights of 2017 WMC Activities

Outreach and Education Events: Melissa provided some highlights and photos of the 2017 Aquatic Invasive Species River Workshop and Volunteer Paddle and Pull Events done in coordination with partners including Calapooia Watershed Council, City of Albany Parks and Recreation, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Portland State University, Oregon State Parks, and Willamette Riverkeeper. WMC also participated in the 4th Annual Benton County Cooperative Weed Management Area’s Let’s Pull Together Event, which included three locations on the river: Takena Landing, Bowman Park, and Oak Creek Open Space near Teloh-Calapooia Park.

Ludwigia Control Treatments: Over 350 acres in treatment this summer, over 30 landowners, including public and private, new sites added for 2017

Yellow Floating Heart Control Treatments: New treatment technique this year at Horseshoe Lake, new occurrence of yellow floating heart at Tripp Island greenway (found by volunteer during paddle and pull event). We’re finding these new occurrences because we’re already out on the river. No re-occurrence of yellow floating heart at Lower Kiger alcove, which was first observed there in 2016 and hand pulled during a volunteer paddle and pull event. New large yellow floating heart population found near Eugene. Partners plan to apply for an ODA Oregon State Weed Board grant application to start outreach with landowners and control treatments.

Monitoring: Shared some of the conclusions from [Mosaic Ecology's 2016 monitoring report](#) (3 sites yearly vegetation mapping; 3 sites water quality monitoring grab sampling):

- Ludwigia infested areas possessed lower dissolved oxygen (DO) than open water areas
- Heavy Ludwigia areas - DO at levels that would result in mortality to salmonids, non-salmonids, and aquatic invertebrates
- Areas previously with Ludwigia did not see immediate rise in DO in year after initial control efforts
- Submergent vegetation missing, may need to add for increased DO
- Ludwigia floating mats major source of regrowth

In 2017, a unique opportunity came about to partner with U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and Portland State University (PSU) to learn more about the impacts of Ludwigia and other aquatic invasive species on the aquatic plant community and on water quality. This monitoring effort includes two sites in the Willamette Mainstem Cooperative project area (Collins Bay and Scatter Bar Pond). Both Collins Bay and Scatter Bar Pond were included in 2015 and 2016 monitoring efforts, and this collaborative opportunity with USGS and PSU allowed for more rigorous scientific monitoring at these two sites in 2017.

Wapato Collections and Plantings: Local farmer, Marvin Gilmour, donated wapato tubers and native aquatic seed for plantings at Collins Bay, where four seasons of treatments have led to a reduction in Ludwigia cover, with some areas having greatly reduced plant cover to no plant cover. Wapato was also collected by or shared with City of Eugene and Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians for use in their restoration projects and nursery sites.

There is interest by local and regional partners in an informal native plant working group where information related to native aquatic plants (e.g., priority species, cultural history, where to obtain plant materials, planting methods, etc.) could be shared. The Institute for Applied Ecology will have good lessons learned to share with their experience with the Willamette Valley Native Plant Materials Working Group. Melissa to present about idea at the winter Willamette Aquatic Invasive Network meeting.

WMC Logo and Illustration

Melissa shared the WMC illustration created by local artist Julia Lont, and options for the logo. Limited funding to create logo options presented. Logo chosen by group.

Infographics for Aquatic Invasives Work

Kathleen has been working with graphics person to unify presentation of partner work. OWEB FIP has a little money to make an infographic for the aquatic invasives work, need to determine audiences needed for infographics.

For pilot effort Kathleen coordinated with partners in basin about project information and worked with her graphics person to create posters with shared infographic symbols and similar layouts for display at the AWRA Annual Resources Conference in Portland. Target audience for the pilot effort is grant funders. Trying to get corporate sponsors to get interested and they tend to be interested in icons and larger scale than one geographic place.

Wapato Cove – Ludwigia Control Treatments

Melissa: highly visible public site along river with lots of native vegetation (wapato). Site is one that is included in our on the river outreach and education events. Site had Ludwigia control treatments conducted for the first time in 2017. At this site we are using an integrated technique of chemical control (e.g., in areas with medium to dense stands of Ludwigia) and some manual control (e.g., contractors or volunteers in areas with sparser amounts of Ludwigia and dense numbers of native wapato plants). Having good success with this combination at Lower Kiger alcove, just downstream of Wapato Cove.

Public signage about restoration and treatments needed at larger scale on river.

Good signage with right messages cuts down the phone calls, explain and do education

Collins Bay & Stewart Slough – Ludwigia Control Treatments

Melissa: Having good success with Ludwigia control treatments in eastern half of site. Western half of site has been more difficult to treat. What could be affecting this (e.g., flow)?

Melissa: Difficulties in treating, number of treatment years that will be needed will be greater than Eugene sites. Ludwigia present since 1949 vs. Ludwigia arrived at Eugene Delta Ponds in 2007 and overtook by 2012 (started chemical treatments in 2014 for several years and saw good response, now incorporated volunteer hand pulls to help where don't need chemical treatments).

Group Discussion about what may be affecting control treatments at sites:

Are the plants new seedlings, how long do the seeds last?

Recruitment from seed would likely not take long to make it look like a plant that looks like it had been there for a while, are these new plants or plants that have been there for a while?

Dr. Brenda Grewell good person to speak with about

Do low flow areas have more existing substrate to get exposed so Ludwigia can grab on?

Does it make sense to dredge some of these areas – low areas are keeping the sediment in, deepens the waters

Delta ponds – they can also control the water there for treatments; do Eugene sites have remaining Ludwigia mats as an issue?

Check in with Brenda about what the biocontrol agent is, and what timeline

Peter: Stewart Slough – funding longer term an issue

Where can efforts be successful, we are teaching/learning a lot about

Brad: We are finding that we can be much more successful in some places than others

We do triage on what we are trying to protect and what we now know what to protect

Why are we successful here and not other places?

Why are treatments successful some places and not others – is it flow, is it seed bank?

At some point you can't do everything

Need to strategically work in areas that can be effective and have high habitat value, and then go back and recapture some of these areas

Holly – we have learned a lot, take a hard look at the other sites and critically looking at them and what are the chances of them being successful for what we know, talking to Brenda we may be able to pinpoint a little better where we spend the money

Kathleen – there are four more years to leverage FIP funding for trying to draw lessons of why with monitoring dollars, current avenues for funding are not going to bare future fruit, research angle may be a good one, would OSU extension be interested?

Brad – basic research needed about biology of the plant, what is the seed source, applied research questions for people in that field to make this more effective, Sam Chan at Extension? But who is doing aquatic plant research he doesn't know right now, sometimes there is an OSU person, Brenda seems to be a leading researcher, why or why not it is working, slower way to learn trial by error; how to we make this make us more effective, valuable lessons learned here

Peter – if we walk away from treatments, need to monitor to see how quickly the plants come back

Holly – what is federal funding like now, USACE or USDA research, USACE is doing research work with Brenda, maybe we could craft a research question that they would be interested in, maybe we could convince them they need a research site in Oregon, (Kelly – would Long tom be good location because of Corps near there)

Takeka Landing – Ivy Control Treatments

Melissa and Emily: Will continue volunteer events (e.g., [Let's Pull Together](#)) to help with manual control of invasives at park, and will use OWEB Willamette Strategic Investment Partnership (WSIP) grant funds for additional treatments of aerial tree ivy. Site visit scheduled for November 20 to plan for volunteer weed removal and chemical treatments in 2018. Peter and Brad to join site visit.

2018 Control Treatment Planning

Melissa: Have some OWEB Willamette Strategic Investment Partnership (WSIP) grant funds remaining (approximately \$5K currently in contract for ivy control, \$25K currently in contract for Ludwigia contro, \$11K unallocated). Grant priority weed species: invasive water primrose (*Ludwigia hexapetala*, *L. peploides*), ivy (*Hedera* spp.) tree/aerial), old man's beard (*Clematis vitalba*), false brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*). Benton SWCD's OWEB WSIP grant expires September 2018.

Group discussed some options for remaining OWEB WSIP grant funds.

Stewart Slough – Ludwigia Control Treatments

Concerns with continuing treatments in 2018 with issues discussed above.

Simpson Park – Ludwigia Control Treatments

Group discussed possibility of 2018 Ludwigia control treatments at Simpson Park.

Melissa: There is some existing momentum with projects in the Simpson Park area, including a national western pond turtle grant and ongoing habitat restoration work by city

Peter: City should be responsible for treatments

Melissa: Is there concern about superfund sites and potential existing toxins in the lake. Would control treatments result in

Holly: Has Ludwigia been removed at talking water gardens

Emily: City is actively treating it there

Discussion about western pond turtle at Simpson Park and Talking Water Gardens.

Emily: ODFW – juveniles will use Ludwigia if just along banks but if water is completely covered then they don't use

Peter – it should be a fairly efficient to treat Simpson

Brad – it is more open water, less complex system, we're not going to eradicate it everywhere, if we can keep these minor, maybe we do a "lets keep it from taking

over", doesn't have to be completely eliminated to help enhance the turtle objectives, mix of triage and priority setting and total elimination may not be what we need but if it is eliminated then great

Scott – Bower's pond – will it be relatively easy compared to Stewart Slough and Collins Bay?

Peter – Delta ponds – different substrate it's gravel so Bower's more like that

Brad – that's why it would be nice to say are we killing what's there or killing successive generations

Second lake completely covered with Ludwigia, access difficult, need boat

First Lake is less covered

John – besides western pond turtles, are there other indicator species (minks, otter, beaver)

Scott – red-legged frog

Kelly – wood duck

Peter, Scott – helicopter spraying, could that be a possibility?

Brad – helicopters put on a lot lower volume, would that application be effective? They would they have to do multiple passes, move a lot slower to have higher rate.

Kelly knows person at Corvallis airport

Potential public relation issues with helicopters

Holly – has seen toxic blue green algae there at the lake

Other challenges at site – superfund

Emily – has been bringing up to people at city about responsibility of treating Ludwigia at site and public lands; the mindset though is what's the point, it's everywhere why should we treat it if it's going to come back; if there's a grant that can help us get started with treatment they've shown interest

Peter – need to find out if City wants to do it and think about what other options are besides this

Peter – use funds to treat along the river downstream of Albany on gravel bar within project area, would treat and could learn something from it in a new habitat type

**Following the meeting, Benton SWCD learned of some of some difficulties in the possibility of using the OWEB WSIP funds for treatments at Simpson Park.*

**Calapooia Watershed Council is interested in beginning some scoping of potential flood plain connection restoration around the Oxbow Lakes area owned by Simpson Timber, IP, Albany, and OPRD. Simpson property is in 100 year lease to the City of Albany. Calapooia Watershed Council will be working with the City of Albany on scoping. Melissa to write a letter of support for Oxbow Lakes habitat funding.*

Takena Landing – Ivy Control Treatments

Peter: we did not get publicity of the treatment of the ivy that we should have; there is neighboring property owners near there where there is ivy and they are seed sources, and on the City side; scattered populations on city lands are important as getting the large populations; key with the ivy is to stop seed production

Rural Landowners between Takena Landing and Bowers Rock – Ivy and Clematis Control Treatments

Melissa: Have connection with landowner who may be able to connect with other nearby landowners for control treatments in 2018. Great to have this connection to help with outreach.

Visions for future

Melissa: See benefit in inviting urban landowner(s) to participate in Willamette Mainstem Cooperative. A number of urban landowners around Horseshoe Lake, where we are treating yellow floating heart, are very active in the project.

Brad: having some representation of urban/suburban good idea

Peter: Aubrey, someone from community; has Marci been invited?, and he was going to ask Tori who used to work at Clean Water Services

Melissa: Marci is invited to the meetings. Will reach out to Aubrey to invite him to future meetings.

*****See page below for grant budget summary.*****

Action Items:

Melissa:

- Reach out to Mike Netherland (with USACE) and Brenda (USDA-ARS) regarding monitoring and control efforts (e.g., related to Ludwigia seed recruitment, crafting research questions)
- Check in with Brenda about possibility of future biocontrol agent and timeline
- Reach out to urban landowners (Horseshoe Lake) and Aubrey Cloud (Willamette Restoration Volunteers) to invite to participate in WMC

Thanks to everyone for participating and for your invaluable feedback!

Budget Summary for Open Grants (as of 9.30.2017)

Grantor, Program and Duration	Project Name	Award Amount	Budget spent as of 9/30/2017	Budget Remaining as of 9/30/2017	Notes
OWEB-Willamette Special Investment Partnership Feb. 2015 thru Sept. 2018	Willamette Mainstem Cooperative Restoration, Phase I	\$221,643	\$147,290	\$74,353	still waiting on some invoicing from contractor for fall 2017 AIS treatments
MMT-WRI Basin-Wide Impact 2014-2016 Aug. 2014 thru Aug. 2016, extended and ongoing	Willamette Mainstem Cooperative	\$141,344	\$128,968	\$12,376	remaining funds will be expended this winter
MMT-WRI Basin-Wide Impact 2016-2018 July 2016 through June 2018	Willamette Mainstem Cooperative Restoration, Phase II	\$90,031	\$22,037	\$67,994	
ODA - Oregon State Weed Board 2016 Feb 2016 through Oct 2017	Willamette River Aquatic Weed Management Phase 3	\$37,913	\$31,112	\$6,801	remaining funds will be expended by October 2017 - Wapato Cove
ODA - Oregon State Weed Board 2017 Feb 2017 thru Apr 2018 (extension will be requested through October 2018)	Willamette River Aquatic Weed Management Phase 4	\$31,980	\$9,456	\$22,524	2017 USGS and PSU invoicing remaining; portion of funds will be expended in 2018 at Scatter Bar Pond
Totals		\$522,911	\$338,862	\$184,049	

Other partner grants (BSWCD as fiscal agent and partner tech assistance):

- **Willamette Mission Floodplain Reforestation Phase 4 – Channel Monitoring – Technical Assistance**
- **OWEB FIP Effectiveness Monitoring Program –Technical Assistance**